



# CAT INFO PACK

ANIMAL HOSPITALS OF THE  
LOWCOUNTRY

Revised February 2024



**SCAN FOR DIGITAL COPY**

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**SINCE 1956, THE SHULER FAMILY HAS BEEN CARING FOR YOUR PETS AS OUR OWN.**

**EMPATHY, COMMUNICATION, AND INNOVATION ARE OUR CORE VALUES.**

**AS A FAMILY-RUN BUSINESS, WE ARE HERE TO PROVIDE THE BEST CARE TO YOUR FURRY FRIENDS.**

**WHETHER YOU ARE A NEW PET OWNER OR A LONG-STANDING OWNER, LET THIS PACK BE A QUICK GUIDE.**

# Kitten Exam/Vaccination Schedule

**\*Each includes a thorough preventive care exam by the doctor**

## **6 weeks:**

- Fecal exam 1 of 2
- Deworming
- Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis/Calicivirus/Chlamydia/Panleukopenia vaccine (FVRCCP) 1 of 4
- Feline Leukemia Virus/Feline Immunodeficiency test

## **9 weeks:**

- Fecal exam 2 of 2
- Deworming
- FVRCCP (2 of 4)
- Risk-based vaccines
- Feline Leukemia Virus vaccine 1 of 2
- Heartworm/Intestinal parasite/Flea/Tick medication

## **12 weeks:**

- FVRCCP (3 of 4)
- Heartworm/Intestinal parasite/Flea/Tick medication
- Feline Leukemia Virus vaccine 2 of 2

## **15 weeks:**

- FVRCCP (4 of 4)
- Rabies
- Heartworm/Intestinal parasite/Flea/Tick medication (year-round)

# Adult Exam/Vaccination Schedule

\*Each of these includes a thorough preventive care exam done by a doctor

## Annually:

- Rabies (1 or 3 year)<sup>+</sup>
- Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis/Calicivirus/Chlamydia/Panleukopenia vaccine(FVRCP) (1 or 3 year)
- Feline Leukemia Virus vaccine (FELV) (1 or 2 year)\*
- General blood screen
- Heartworm/Intestinal parasite/Flea/Tick medication (year-round)

## Every 6 months:

- Fecal examination

\*Risk-based vaccines- highly recommended  
Can be contracted by humans (Zoonotic)

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# Kitten Guide

0-6 months

# KITTEN EXAM/VACCINATION SCHEDULE/GUIDE

This schedule is variable and will depend on the age of your furbaby at the first visit, previous medical history and risk assessment. Not all cats get the same vaccines. It will depend on the environment and lifestyle your new kitten will be exposed to and/or living in. Our veterinary team will recommend what vaccines your kitten will need based on this assessment.

## 6 weeks of age:

- Preventive Care Exam - Thorough head-to-tail exam by the veterinarian
- Fecal exam: for intestinal parasites which are very common in kittens and highly transmittable to humans. We recommend 2 negative fecal tests within a 3-week time frame before we stop deworming in-office.
- Kitten deworming to eliminate intestinal parasites
- Feline Rhinotracheitis/Calicivirus/Chlamydia/Panleukopenia Vaccine (FVRCCP)- 1 of 4 in vaccine series.
- Feline Leukemia Virus Antigen/Feline Immunodeficiency Virus Antibody Combo Snap Test (FELV/FIV test)-The results will determine how we move forward with vaccinations and treatment.

## 9 weeks of age:

- Preventive Care Exam
- Fecal exam
- Kitten deworming
- FVRCCP- 2 of 4 in vaccine series.

Risk-based vaccines can begin to be administered. This vaccine includes:

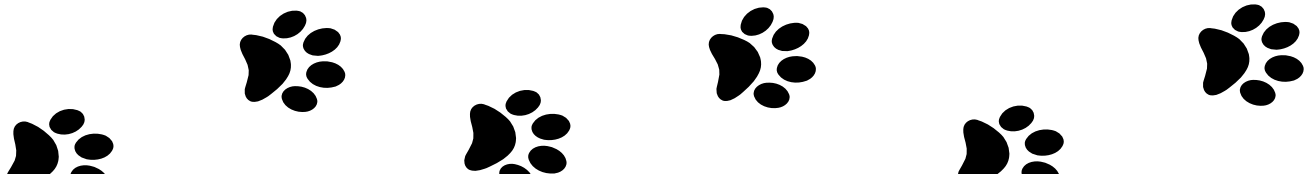
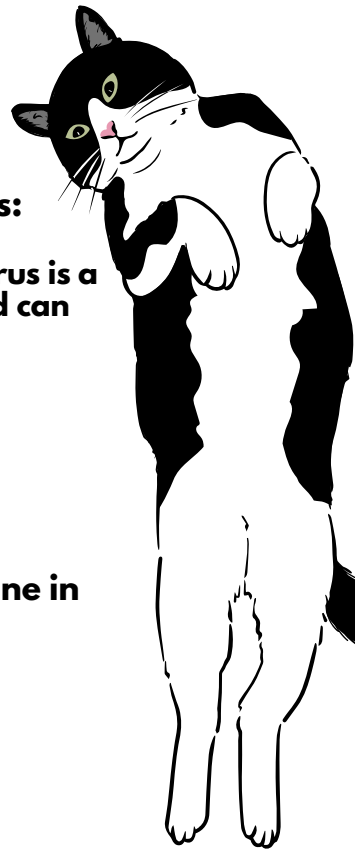
- Feline Leukemia Virus vaccine (FELV)-2 vaccine series. Feline Leukemia Virus is a incurable disease that dramatically decreases the lifespan of your cat, and can result in many serious health problems, ultimately leading to death.

## 12 weeks of age:

- Preventive Care Exam
- FVRCCP- 3 of 4 vaccine
- Feline Leukemia Virus vaccine (FELV)- This is the 2nd and final vaccine in the Leukemia Virus series

## 15 weeks of age:

- Preventive Care Exam
- FVRCCP- Vaccine 4 of 4
- Feline Rabies vaccine (1 year) - this incurable viral disease affects the central nervous system. It is spread by a bite wound or a scratch that breaks the skin of an infected animal. There is NO cure. The state of SC requires us to vaccinate all kittens and adult cats annually or every 3 years.



# Flea Facts



Only **5%** of any given flea population is on the pet. **95% of EVERY flea population is in the environment.** You may have a problem without seeing the fleas.



The cat flea (*Ctenocephalides felis*) is the flea found on **cats AND dogs.** This means you need to treat both dogs and cats.



**Fleas do not jump from one dog to another.** Fleas are acquired from infestation of the premises, whether that is outdoors or indoors.



**Once a flea jumps onto an animal, it immediately feeds and breeds, laying eggs within 24 hours.**



A female can lay **50 eggs a day, each day it is alive!!! That's 2000 eggs in a lifetime!**

## Adults

Most feed within 15 minutes of finding a host and every 30 minutes thereafter. They mate within 24 hours of emergence—launching the next generation of fleas in your home.



## Pupae

Fully formed adult fleas remain in the cocoon until stimulated to emerge. It could take a week or months.



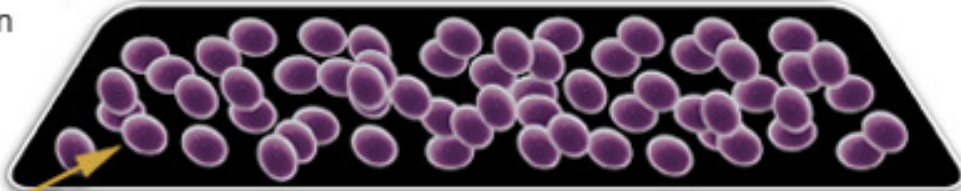
## Larvae

Repelled by light, these white, maggot-like worms seek out dark areas such as carpets, where they feed on flea feces and debris. They shed their skins three times until they are ready to spin a cocoon.



## Eggs

Look closely, and you can see these pearl-white ovals with your naked eye. Female fleas lay up to 2,000 eggs in a lifetime. The eggs hatch within 2–7 days.





# INTESTINAL PARASITES

**Pets can be exposed through a variety of ways. They can become infected through contact with infected feces, either through ingestion or skin penetration. Some parasites can be transmitted from the mother to her babies across the placenta or through nursing. Finally, parasites can be transmitted to your pets through the ingestion of intermediate hosts, such as fleas, rodents, and rabbits.**

**What different types of intestinal parasites do pets get?  
Dogs and cats both become infected with the following parasites:**

**TAPEWORMS:** Transmitted by intermediate hosts, these parasites feed from the intestines. The shedding resembles small grains of rice, or if dried out, sesame seeds.

**Symptoms:** weight loss, increased appetite, and poor hair coat.

**ROUNDWORMS\*:** This parasite is commonly found in puppies and kittens, as it is transmitted across the placenta.

**Symptoms:** vomiting, diarrhea, pot-bellied appearance.

**HOOKWORMS\*:** This parasite causes a serious health hazard in that it attaches directly to the intestinal wall, causing severe anemia and loss of blood.

**Symptoms:** Poor appetite, weight loss, black or bloody stool

**WHIPWORMS:** Primarily a canine parasite, infection occurs through ingestion of the egg.

**Symptoms:** intermittent diarrhea, often with mucus and flecks of blood.

**COCCIDIA:** These are transmitted primarily by fecal contamination.

**Symptoms:** Fatigue, dehydration, weight loss, diarrhea

\*Can potentially be contracted by humans (zoonotic threat)

There are other parasites that very occasionally infect dogs and cats. Should these be present, your doctor will explain them at the time of diagnosis.

# Spay/Neuter

Through research and innovation, we have curated a treatment plan that is individualized to each animal. Reach out to us for your pets personalized plan.

## Benefits

### Females (Spaying):

- Decreases the chance of uterine infections
- Eliminates cystic ovaries
- No unwanted pregnancies

### Males (Neutering):

- Testicular disease is eliminated
- Decreases aggressive behavior
- Prevents marking territory

## Procedure

Sterilization is recommended for animals 4-6 months old. Prior to this procedure, bloodwork will be performed to identify any unforeseen internal disorders.

The background of the page is a repeating pattern of stylized fish skeletons in a light gray color. Each skeleton is oriented in a different direction, creating a scattered, underwater-like effect. The skeletons are simple, showing the head, spine, and tail.

# Adult Guide

1-7 years

# Vaccines/ Exam

## Core Vaccines:

Rabies..... every 1-3yrs

FVRCP..... every 1-3yrs

## Risk-Based Vaccines:

FELV..... every 2 years

## Exams/Bloodwork:

Preventive care exam.....semi-annual check-up

Fecal flotation exam.....every 6 months

HW/FELV/FIV test.....as needed

Preventive blood screen.....every year

Parasite preventive medicine.....year-round

# Parasite Preventive Medicine

Preventive medicine is an essential key to keeping your animals healthy and happy. Listed below are some of the medications we use for prevention.

**revolution<sup>®</sup>**  
**PLUS**   
(selamectin and sarolaner  
topical solution)

## Revolution Plus

**Fleas, ticks,  
Heartworm, ear  
mites, roundworms,  
and hookworms**

**1 dose a month**

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# Senior/Geriatric

7-9 years

10+ years

# Personalized Care Plans

Each senior pet will receive an individualized care plan. To ease into their senior age, the following tests or considerations are discussed:

- Sr. wellness profile: thyroid testing/urinalysis/fecal screen/blood-work
- Behavioral/Cognitive changes
- Mobility discussion
- Nutritional counseling



# Additional Precautions

**Sr. cats are at high risk of developing hyperthyroidism, diabetes, and kidney disease. Along with health monitoring, we can take the following precautions:**

## Mobility

- Physical therapy
- Photobiomodulation (laser) therapy
- Acupuncture
- Nutrition support
- Medication:
  - Dasuquin supplement
  - Adequan Injection

## Pain Management

- Metacam
- Gabapentin
- Solensia

## Therapy

- Physical therapy
- Acupuncture
- Photobiomodulation (laser) therapy

## Quality of life discussion

- When to know it's time to let go
- Euthanasia guidelines
- Grief support





# General Tips

**Additional resources  
for cat parents of all  
ages!**



# Declawing Facts

KNOW THE TRUTH



**Declawing = amputation of cat's toe at first joint**  
(like cutting off a human's first knuckle)

**33%**

of cats suffer at least one behavioral problem after declaw surgery

**18%**  
show increased biting

**17%**  
suffer wounds re-opening

**15%**  
will not use the litterbox

**11%**  
suffer from lameness

**10%**  
see nail regrowth



**Illegal in**

**37**

**Countries**

**+ 8 U.S. Cities**

**Declawing can produce:**  
Chronic pain  
Arthritis/lameness  
Nerve/tissue damage  
Gangrene  
Abscesses  
Paw pad atrophy  
Bone regrowth

up to **50%**

of declawed cats develop acute physical complications



up to **20%**

of declawed cats develop long-term physical complications

**"The pain must be excruciating; it is certainly a gruesome spectacle to watch."**  
--A Vet Tech



**75-90%** of pet owners change their mind about declawing once they know the risks

**"Claws are a physically, socially, and emotionally vital part of every cat."**

--Jackson Galaxy, Cat Behaviorist



**"Unlike routine recoveries... declawing surgery results in cats bouncing off the walls of the recovery cage because of excruciating pain..."**

--Dr. Nicholas Dodman, DVM

**Litterbox issues are**

**2x**

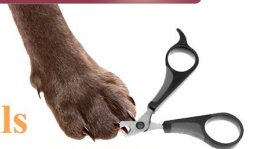
**more common in declawed cats**

**Osteomyelitis affects**

**30%**

**of declawed cats (a painful bone infection)**

**You wouldn't declaw a dog... you trim his nails**



Sources:

JAVMA (Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association), AVMA.org, Veterinary Medicine, DVM Best Practices, James Gaynor, DVM, Colorado State University Veterinary Medical School, proj360.com, littlebigcat.com, Vet Forum, paw-rescue.org, moggies.co.uk, declaw.lisaviolet.com, maxshouse.com, World Small Animal Veterinary Association, jacksongalaxy.com



# TOXIC TO CATS

## Toxic Food

- Alcohol
- Avocado
- Chocolate
- Coffee
- Citrus
- Grapes
- Coconut
- Coconut oil
- Nuts
- Raw meat and eggs
- Salt/Sugar snacks
- Xylitol
- Yeast Dough

## Toxic Plants

- Aloe Vera
- Poinsettia
- Sago Palm
- Tulips
- Azalea
- English Ivy
- Oleander
- Daffodils
- Mums
- Hydrangea

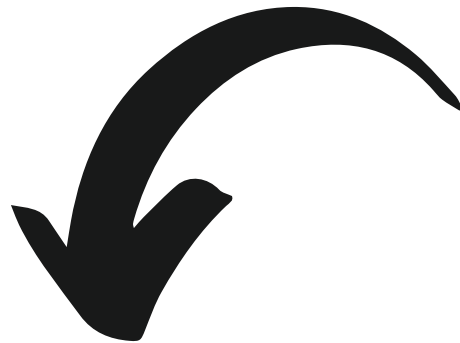
# Food Recommendation



## ROYAL CANIN®

**We recommend Royal Canin to all our pet parents. With a wide range of products, there are options for all your pet's needs.**

**You can purchase Royal Canin in all our offices, or order on our online store.**



**<https://mpahandsvc.vetsfirstchoice.com/>**

# Payment Plans



**Minimal credit checks,  
no hidden cost,  
no deferred interest**



**Accepted nationwide,  
help for out of pocket costs**

# Insurance



**Instantly compare  
pet insurances to fit  
your needs.**

# Doctor Recommendation

Microchip



Boarding



Emergency Vet



After-hour calls



Guardian Vet

